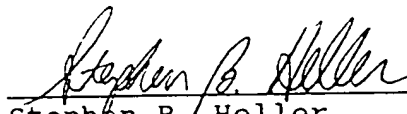


REMARKS

This preliminary amendment is being submitted in connection with a continuation application. Claims 3-18 submitted in this Preliminary Amendment correspond to Claims 3-13 and 16-20, which were cancelled without prejudice to further prosecution in the parent application pursuant to an Amendment filed by mail on February 5, 1998. In this Preliminary Amendment, the various §112 and §101 rejections raised in an Office Action dated October 2, 1997, are addressed.

Also accompanying this preliminary amendment is a copy of a substitute specification and drawings filed in connection with the parent application pursuant to a request by the examiner in the October 2, 1997 Office Action. While the revisions to the specification have been substantial, applicants believe that no new matter has been added to the specification. Substitute drawings, in which the figures have been relabeled and the individual elements renumbered, are also enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen B. Heller
Registration No. 30,181
COOK, MCFARRON & MANZO, LTD.
200 West Adams Street
Suite 2850
Chicago, IL 60606
(312)236-8500